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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

### PRAYER

The Reverend Monsignor Mark J. Giordani, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Paterson, NJ, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Father of all peoples and nations, we come before You to thank You for our Nation. Through our Founding Fathers, You have created the United States of America to be one nation under God.

Give us Your spirit to enlighten and empower us to enact laws that embody Your truth, justice, compassion, and peace. Teach us how to humble ourselves before You that both personally and as public servants we may exemplify Your integrity, honesty, and high moral character.

Father, make us Your beacon of light, not only financially, militarily, and through technology, but spiritually. If our spiritual roots decay, we will die. Let our love for our true freedom, liberty, and justice for all authentically shine in the midst of all peoples and nations.

Father, fulfill in our Nation and in all nations the words of Jesus Christ: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

We ask You this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas, Mr. PETE GEREN, come for-

ward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PETE GEREN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize fifteen 1-minute speeches on each side.

### WELCOMING REV. MSGR. MARK J. GIORDANI

(Mr. MARTINI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, today I welcome to the House of Representatives a good friend of all of the people of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, Monsignor Mark J. Giordani.

Monsignor Giordani is not only a spiritual leader but also a renowned civic activist in the finest sense of the word. He is a man whom I have come to admire and respect.

As a young child, he lost his father to the anger of Italian fascists. Following this tragic incident, his mother turned to the strength of Christianity and instilled this faith in her son. This guiding force led the monsignor to a new and spiritual life in America.

Upon immigrating to the United States, the monsignor received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University and a master's of divinity from Christ the King Seminary in New York.

During his seminary years, the monsignor dedicated endless hours to the poor, cultivating a passion to help the most unfortunate in our community. This passion was fulfilled through his appointment as a copastor of St.

Gerard's parish in New Jersey. He was responsible for the founding of several local charitable organizations.

On November 1, 1987, Monsignor Giordani was appointed rector of St. John's Cathedral, and serves as spiritual leader day in and day out, offering his overwhelming kindness. No person is ever considered too big or too small to receive the attention of Monsignor Giordani.

Mr. Speaker, Monsignor Giordani is a spiritual pillar in our community. I offer admiration for his past and continued good services. Indeed, the people of the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey have well become richer through the deeds, efforts, and spiritual guidance of the monsignor.

### SENIOR CITIZENS BEWARE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the senior citizens of this country better beware again, because the Republicans once again have unveiled their budget resolution for this year, and it cuts Medicare and Medicaid drastically in order to once again provide tax breaks for the wealthiest in this country. Even worse, it actually changes the Medicare and Medicaid programs so much that we would not even recognize them.

Seniors are going to be forced into managed care systems because of balanced billing provisions. We expect that they will also be paying a lot more money out of their own pockets in order to pay for Medicare.

The cuts in the Medicare Part A Program that finances hospitals and health care institutions are even more severe essentially than previously suggested, and what that means is a lot of hospitals not only in urban areas but in rural areas and throughout the country will actually be forced to close because

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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